

DOCKET NO.: 218478 US

10/030123  
531 Rec'd PCT/PTC 24 JAN 2002

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Yasuji HIRAMATSU, et al.  
SERIAL NO.: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION  
FILED: HERewith  
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/JP01/04438  
INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: May 28, 2001  
FOR: SEMICONDUCTOR-PRODUCING/EXAMINING DEVICE

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

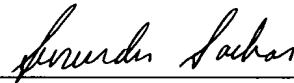
Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application for patent, notice is hereby given that the applicant claims as priority:

<b><u>COUNTRY</u></b>	<b><u>APPLICATION NO</u></b>	<b><u>DAY/MONTH/YEAR</u></b>
Japan	2000-156876	26 May 2000

Certified copies of the corresponding Convention application(s) were submitted to the International Bureau in PCT Application No. PCT/JP01/04438. Receipt of the certified copy(s) by the International Bureau in a timely manner under PCT Rule 17.1(a) has been acknowledged as evidenced by the attached PCT/IB/304.

Respectfully submitted,  
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